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# Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/63, contains statistical information on submissions by States concerning confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms, submitted to the Secretary-General by Governments since 2005, and a review of the information contained therein.

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# I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/63, entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms", by which the Assembly welcomed all confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms already undertaken by Member States, as well as the information on such measures voluntarily provided, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution, including the information provided by Member States.

2. This is the first report by the Secretary-General since the adoption, in 2004, of the first General Assembly resolution on the subject (resolution 59/92). It covers the period from 2005 to 2011 and provides a statistical analysis of the information received from Member States in response to the relevant resolutions (Assembly resolutions 59/92, 60/82, 61/79, 63/57 and 65/63), reviews information on confidence-building measures provided in national submissions and identifies possible trends in their implementation.

3. National submissions are available in their original language from: www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/infoCBM/html/infoCBM-Reports.shtml.

# II. Statistical information on submissions by States

4. Since 2005, the Secretariat has received submissions from 36 Member States, with a number of them submitting multiple reports, bringing the total number received to 77 (see tables 1 and 2 below).

Table 1
**Submissions, by year and region**

| | *Africa* | *Asia* | *Eastern Europe* | *Latin America and the Caribbean* | *Western Europe and others* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | — | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 2006 | — | 4 | 1 | 2 | — | 7 |
| 2007 | — | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 15 |
| 2008 | — | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 2009 | — | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 11 |
| 2010 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| 2011 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 17 |
| **Total** | **2** | **15** | **22** | **18** | **20** | **77** |

Table 2
**Submissions, by State**

| *Regional group* | *State* | *Number and year* |
|---|---|---|
| Africa | Senegal | 1 (2011) |
| | Tunisia | 1 (2010) |
| Asia | Bangladesh | 1 (2007) |
| | Cambodia | 1 (2006) |
| | Japan | 6 (2005-2010) |
| | Lebanon | 2 (2006, 2011) |
| | Oman | 1 (2009) |
| | Pakistan | 1 (2006) |
| | Qatar | 1 (2008) |
| | Tajikistan | 1 (2009) |
| | Turkmenistan | 1 (2011) |
| Eastern Europe | Armenia | 1 (2011) |
| | Azerbaijan | 2 (2010, 2011) |
| | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 4 (2005, 2008, 2009, 2011) |
| | Bulgaria | 1 (2011) |
| | Czech Republic | 1 (2007) |
| | Georgia | 1 (2005) |
| | Hungary | 3 (2007, 2008, 2010) |
| | Latvia | 2 (2007, 2008) |
| | Poland | 2 (2006, 2007) |
| | Serbia | 2 (2007, 2010) |
| | Ukraine | 3 (2009-2011) |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | Argentina | 4 (2007, 2009-2011) |
| | Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 2 (2005, 2007) |
| | Chile | 1 (2005) |
| | El Salvador | 2 (2007, 2011) |
| | Guatemala | 1 (2005) |
| | Mexico | 6 (2005-2009, 2011) |
| | Nicaragua | 1 (2007) |
| | Panama | 1 (2006) |
| Western Europe and others | Cyprus | 1 (2011) |
| | Germany | 5 (2007-2011) |
| | Greece | 6 (2005, 2007-2011) |
| | Netherlands | 3 (2009-2011) |
| | Portugal | 1 (2011) |
| | Spain | 4 (2007-2009, 2011) |
| **Total** | **36 States** | **77 submissions** |

# III. Overview of confidence-building measures in submissions of Member States

5. The confidence-building measures included in Member States' submissions can be divided into three main categories. These measures could be applied globally, at the regional or subregional levels, bilaterally and in some instances, unilaterally.

### Information exchange measures

6. Confidence-building measures focusing on information exchange seek to enhance the mutual understanding of national military capabilities and activities and to facilitate regular communication to avoid surprise or unsought military confrontations. Examples include the reciprocal appointment of military points of contact, the establishment of a hotline between chiefs of the armed forces, the exchange of military information on national forces and armaments and advance notification of important military manoeuvres and activities.

7. Also among the measures in the field of conventional arms, reported by Member States, is the unilateral notification of reduction and disposal of weapons and ammunition.

### Observation and verification measures

8. Confidence-building measures focusing on observation and verification aim at generating trust by allowing participating States to monitor each other's military facilities and activities. Observation measures assist in corroborating that a party's military activities are of a non-aggressive nature and that they are organized only in the context of military activities, or of planning for such activities, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. Examples include the invitation of observers to monitor major military exercises and missions to evaluate on site the information provided by a Government on its military units and equipment.

9. Some Member States note that in their region, those military exercises that involve more than a specific number of troops are required to be open for observation, under an agreed confidence-building measure.

10. Inspections modalities reported by Member States may include verification on the ground and photography from aerial observation flights.

### Military constraint measures

11. Confidence-building measures focusing on military constraint are designed to limit the capacity of parties for offensive (and especially, surprise) military attacks. Examples include restrictions on the number and scope of major military exercises, limitations of troop movements, de-alerting and the establishment of demilitarized and weapon-free zones.

12. States in different regions indicate that unilateral announcements of military constraint measures may also be considered a confidence-building measure.

### Other measures

13. Some Member States reported that they regard information exchange on their existing export control regimes as a confidence-building measure in the field of

conventional arms. In addition, a number of States have noted that participation in international arms control and disarmament treaties and agreements and the faithful implementation of or adherence to them have an effect equivalent to confidence-building measures.

14. In several instances, Member States included information on the establishment of subregional centres for the training of personnel responsible for the implementation of confidence-building measures and for carrying out joint activities, such as preventing the trafficking of human beings, small arms and narcotics. The establishment of such training centres was reported by Member States in Central Asia, Latin America and South-Eastern Europe.

15. Some Member States included proposals for developing new confidence-building measures and mechanisms, in particular in response to new security threats.

## IV. Conclusions and recommendations

16. Information provided by Member States indicates that confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms can contribute significantly to the strengthening of international peace, security and stability. Several States indicated support for the United Nations acting as a repository of such measures.

17. Most confidence-building measures referred to in national reports by Member States have been agreed to in regional, subregional or bilateral contexts. The great variety of such measures underlines the importance of tailoring them to the particular security concerns of States within a region or subregion.

18. Regions and subregions wishing to develop regional confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms may build upon existing measures with a global reach, such as the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures or the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. They could, for instance, conduct regular bilateral or regional discussions on information provided by Member States from their region to these global instruments and on the strategic considerations underpinning the policy decisions reported therein.

19. Member States aspiring to further develop confidence- and security-building measures regarding armaments and military expenditures within their region or subregion may voluntarily draw upon an overview of such measures in the field of conventional arms, as provided by Member States, to identify potentially suitable measures. To assist in such endeavours, the Secretariat would provide an indicative list of confidence-building measures, based on the submissions by Member States within the categories mentioned in section III above. The list itself would remain a living document to which further additions, submitted by Member States, would be welcomed.

20. Most confidence-building measures are of a regional nature and are thus relevant for more than one State in a given region. States may wish to consider consolidating their reporting, by one State of the region or subregion, on regional or subregional measures that are applicable to a group of countries, as opposed to submitting reports of multiple States of that region. In this regard, the Office for Disarmament Affairs stands ready to collaborate with regional or subregional organizations.

21. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is also ready to assist Member States and regional or subregional organizations in organizing seminars and workshops aimed at enhancing awareness of existing confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms and promoting the further development of tailored regional and subregional regimes for such measures, where appropriate.